

REMARKS

Applicant's gratefully acknowledge the indication in the Official Action that Claims 38 to 40, 43 to 45, 47 to 49, 52 to 54 and 56 to 58 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form (pg. 4, para. 11 of the Official Action).

Claims 1-59 remain pending in the application. Claims 19 and 27-30 have been withdrawn from consideration are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1 to 18, 20 to 26, 31 to 37, 41, 42, 46, 50, 51, 55 and 59 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,342,345 B1 to Blau et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,891,646 to Barak et al. (pp. 2-3 of the Official Action).

Claim 1 as amended includes the limitation of Claims 42 and 43; Claim 9 as amended includes the limitation of Claim 47; Claim 10 as amended includes the limitation of Claim 38; Claim 18 as amended includes the limitation of Claim 52; and Claim 20 as amended includes the limitation of Claims 34 and 56. As set forth above, Claims 38, 43, 47, 52 and 56 have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these amendments obviate the rejections of independent Claims 1, 9, 10, 18 and 20 as well as any claims dependent thereon (*i.e.*, Claims 2-8, 11-17, 21-23, 31-37, 39-41, 44-46, 48-51, 53-55 and 57-59).

Claim 24 has also been amended to recite that the GPCR and the first mutant form of reporter enzyme are linked together by a polypeptide linker represented by the formula - (GGGGS)_n-. It is respectfully submitted that Claim 24, as amended, is patentable over the references cited in the Official Action. In particular, it is respectfully submitted that there is no teaching or suggestion in the references of record of a substrate as claimed comprising plurality of cells expressing at least one GPCR as a fusion protein to a first mutant form of reporter enzyme and an arrestin protein as a fusion to a second mutant form of the reporter enzyme

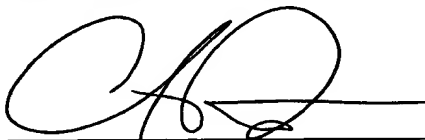
wherein the GPCR and the first mutant form of reporter enzyme are linked together by a polypeptide linker represented by the formula $-(GGGGS)_n-$. Claims 25 and 26, which depend from Claim 24, would also be patentable over the references of record for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 24.

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed by the present amendments and response, Applicants believe that the present case is in condition for allowance and respectfully request early notice to that effect. If, however, any issues remain to be addressed in this matter which might be resolved by discussion, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned counsel at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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